

## ***Biography***

My name is Francesca Altema and I am a 17 year-old senior attending Livingston High School. Throughout my high school career, I have been an active participant in the study of music, specifically voice. Ever since freshman year, I have dedicated my Saturdays towards music school where I embellish my musicianship through classical music. Up to junior year, I have been a member of the Manhattan School of Music's preparatory division, and as of this past September, I am a participant at the Juilliard School's preparatory division, majoring in voice with a minor in piano. Due to my rigorous studies, I have been awarded numerous awards and honors in music such as a New Jersey governor's school nominee, gold medal in the NAACP's ACT-SO local vocal/classical competition, and representing New Jersey at the national competition held at the organization's annual convention two years in a row in New Orleans and Houston. I have performed at Carnegie Hall during a benefit for victims of September 11 in December 2001.

Studying music has definitely given me a sense of discipline and focus that I feel I probably wouldn't have acquired through any other activity. The focus that I gained through music has reflected in my academic studies as well as extracurricular activities, earning me the high honor roll this past marking period and a membership in the French Honor society, and helped shape me into a mature young woman. I have also been an active member in Jack and Jill by serving as president for two consecutive years and finally this year being a member at large.

For the future, I plan to continue my musical studies and become an accomplished musician. I hope to open my own talent institution where gifted young people can be exposed to the performing arts and take away the same inspiration and discipline that music has given me.

Activity	Office(s) held or honors received	Hours per week	Dates
The Juilliard School's preparatory division	Voice major	6	9/02-Now
The Manhattan School of Music's preparatory division	Voice major	8	9/99-5/02
Jack & Jill of America, Inc.	President, member at large	3	9/99-Now
Batey-Relief Alliance	Medicine distributor	24	7.20.02-7.24.02
French Honor Society	Member, tutor	2	11/02-Now
Adult literacy program	Teacher	3	11/02-Now
All-State chorus	Voice (Soprano II)	3 1/2	6/02, 9/02-11/02
All women's Regional chorus (Region I)	Voice (Soprano II)	3 1/2	1/02-2/02
Wesfield Young Artists' Cooperative theater (WYACT) at New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)	Cast of chorus, understudy for <i>Mama Euralie</i> in the production of <i>Once on This Island</i>	25	5/01-7/01
NAACP's ACT-SO team (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, Scientific Olympics)	Member, Bronze and Gold medalist for local vocal/classical competition	1	4/01-4/02
High school treble choir	Voice (Soprano I, II, Alto II)	2	9/00-Now
Ujima (Black-American culture club)	Member	2	9/00-Now
Rutgers University Opera workshop	Voice, featured soloist in final performance	30	8/01 (One full week)
NJMEA (New Jersey Music Educators Education) Opera festival	Voice, featured soloist	3	3/01, 3/03